

Message Text

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21

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INFO ALL US CONSULATES IN MEXICO

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MX, PINT

SUBJECT: PAN FAILS TO NOMINATE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

SUMMARY: THE OPPOSITION PARTY OF NATIONAL ACTIONS(PAN) WAS UNABLE TO AGREE UPON A PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE TO FACE PRI CANDIDATE LOPEZ PORTILLO WHEN IT MET OCTOBER 18-19 IN NATIONAL CONVENTION. A SECOND WILL BE HELD IN TWO MONTHS. SPLIT REVOLVES AROUND PERSONALITIES (EX-PRESIDENT CONCHELLO AND INCUMBENT GONZALEZ MORFIN) AND ISSUE OF PARTICIPATION, THE GONZALEZ MORFIN FACTION PREFERRING NOT TO CONTEST PRESIDENTIAL RACE AT ALL. SOME PUBLIC COMMENTS OF PRI LEADERS INDICATE THEY'RE NERVOUS THAT PAN RESROUCES MIGHT CONCENTRATE ON CONGRESSIONAL AND MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE NATIONAL CONVENTION OF PAN ENDED IN A DEADLOCK OCTOBER 19 WHEN NEITHER OF THE TWO REMAINING CANDIDATES CAME CLOSE TO WINNING THE 80 PERCENT OF THE VOTE REQUIRED BY PARTY STATUTES. OVER PROTEST PAN PRESIDENT GONZALEZ MORFIN CLOSED THE SESSION. ANOTHER WILL BE HELD IN TWO MONTHS.

2. THE CONVENTION REVEALED THAT THE DIVISION WHICH LAST JUNE BECAME SO PUBLIC HAD NOT BEEN OVERCOME. THREE CANDIDATES ENTERED THE CONTEST, TWO REPRESENTING THE

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GONZALEZ MORFIN FACTION, THE THIRD THE CONCHELLO FACTION.

DAVID ALACRON ZARAGOZA, A GUDALAJAJRA BUSINESSMAN, AND SALVADOR ROSAS MAGALLON, A TIJUANA LAWYER ACTIVE IN PAN AFFAIRS SINCE THE 1950S, RECEIVED THE SUPPORT OF GONZALEZ MORFIN. PABLO EMILIO MADERO, ALLEGEDLY THE GRANDSON OF FRANCISCO MADERO, WAS SUPPORTED BY THE CONCHELLO FACTION IN THE BEST TRADITION OF PAN IRONY. ALACRON WITHDREW AFTER THE FIRST BALLOT, ENDORSING ROSAS. DESPITE SOME SLIPPAGE MADERO STILL HAD 53 PERCENT OF CONVENTION VOTE AFTER SEVERAL BALLOTS. WHEN ROSAS REFUSED TO CEDE, GONZALEZ CLOSED THE CONVENTION.

3. IN THE PAST CONTESTANTS FOR THE NOMINATION HAVE WITHDRAWN TO ALLOW A RIVAL CANDIDATE GETTING A SIMPLE MAJORITY TO WIN THE 80 PERCENT AND THE NOMINATION. ROSAS' REFUSAL TO DO SO IS A MEASURE OF THE BITTERNESS BETWEEN THE TWO FACTIONS AND SUGGESTS THAT THE STRATEGY OF THE GONZALEZ MORFIN GROUP IS TO PREVENT A PAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE FROM BEING NOMINATED AT ALL. IF THAT FAILS, THE GONZALEZ FACTION WOULD PREFER TO DELAY THE BEGINNING OF THE PAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE'S CAMPAIGN. EITHER ABSTAINING FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE OR SHORTENING ITS DURATION WOULD ENABLE PAN TO CONCENTRATE ITS SCARCE RESOURCES SELECTIVELY IN THOSE DISTRICTS WHERE THERE EXISTS A REAL POSSIBILITY OF DEFEATING A PRI CONGRESSIONAL OR MUNICIPAL CANDIDATE.

4. PRI LEADERS (E.G. CERVANTES DEL RIO, PRESIDENT OF THE PRI IN THE FEDERAL DISTRICT) HAVE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT PAN WILL FIELD A PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE, IN THE NAME OF "PROVIDING OPTIONS" TO THE ELECTORATE, OF COURSE. WE READ A CERTAIN NERVOUSNESS INTO THEIR COMMENT.
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